

2. (Original) The flexible coupling of claim 1, further comprising a second load bearing member positioned between the first and third members such that, in use, the load bearing member provides a load bearing surface in engagement with the surface of the first member.

3. (Currently Amended) The flexible coupling of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the sealing portion is made from carbon.

4. (Currently Amended) The flexible coupling of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the engaging members are flanges.

5. (Original) The flexible coupling of claim 1, further comprising a clamp which, in use, clamps around the first and second flanges of the first and second members.

6. (Currently Amended) The flexible coupling of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the first and third members are each integrally connected to a piece of tubing.

7. (Currently Amended) The flexible coupling of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the first load bearing member is formed from carbon.

8. (Currently Amended) The flexible coupling of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the third member is shaped so that it always covers the load bearing surface.

Please delete any multiple dependent claims remaining in this application.